

HICKMAN COUNTY

HICKMAN COUNTY, established out of parts of Caldwell and Livingston was named in honor of Captain Paschal Hickman. (b) An act forming the counties of Hickman, Graves, Calloway and M'Cracken, on the southwest of the Tennessee river approved Dec. 19, 1821, as follows: "that all that part of the counties of Caldwell and Livingston, which lies on the Southwest side of the Tennessee river is hereby formed into one county, to be called and known by the name of Hickman." (c) And: "The aforesaid county of Hickman shall hereafter be divided into four counties as soon as the population thereof will justify; and for the purpose of enhancing the value of the vacant and unappropriated lands, it is deemed expedient at this time to make out the boundaries of said counties and reserve certain sections or portions of land whereon to fix the seat of justice, viz: The county of Hickman to be bounded as follows: Beginning in the middle of the Mississippi, opposite the mouth of Mayfield's creek; thence up the middle of said creek, with the meanders thereof, until it intersects the first range line West of the meridian; thence south with said range line until it intersects the Tennessee state line, thence West with said State line, to its termination on the Mississippi; thence up the Mississippi with the line as established by treaty as the boundary of the original territory of the United States, including all the ~~islands~~ islands in said river, which legally belong to Kentucky, to the beginning, -----". (a)

Hickman
OCT 13 1923

DEFINITION AND ORIGIN OF NAMES IN HICKMAN COUNTY, KY.

Bayou de Chien. A creek or small river flowing through Hickman and Fulton Counties, emptying into the Mississippi River at this time about three miles above the town of Hickman (formerly Mills Point). The name bestowed by early French explorers and because in the stream there were a great many of a water animal called "Water Dog", being something of the nature of an amphibian lizard, the largest specimens of which are stated by the older settlers to have made a sound similar to the bark of a dog. This stream was formerly considered to have been navigable up to the town of Moscow situated on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in the southern part of Hickman County; and the branch of the main stream called little Bayou de Chien, emptying into the main stream not far below Moscow, is for a considerable distance of its length the line between the Counties of Hickman and Fulton. The main stream is stated by local tradition to have flowed between the bluffs at Hickman and the Mississippi River and to have extended through the swamp section that was submerged by earthquake in 1811 and became Reelfoot Lake, situated in Lake County, Tennessee. What is called No. 9 slough, which extends several miles northward from the head of Reelfoot Lake towards to Mississippi River, is considered to have formerly been the channel of that part of Bayou de Chien.

✓ Beelerton. A small village in Hickman County about six miles north of the town of Fulton and adjacent to what was originally known as "Wesley", which was a general store founded and operated by J. M. Dodson, a practicing physician. The village of Beelerton named for Dr. Geo. Beeler of Clinton, Kentucky, sprung up around a competing business also established by Dodson, who had sold the Wesley property. Beelerton formerly had a post office and there is now situated there a county high school and a general store, with a number of residences grouped in the vicinity, and a substantial church building.

✓ Bulah. A country store and voting precinct in the extreme northeastern part of Hickman County where a post office was maintained for many years, operated by R. T. Courtney, who still resides there and is interested in the business of the store, which is of small proportions. This precinct is peculiar in that it polls the largest white Republican vote in Hickman or adjacent counties.

✓ Buggs. A voting precinct in the east central part of Hickman County, and at which place a general store has been maintained for many years. This is now only a voting precinct, having been named for members of a very numerous family of that name residing in the locality, among whom were substantial landowners and men of local prominence.

✓ Croley. A small village situated about 3½ miles east of Clinton, in Hickman County, where a general store has been maintained for many years and where Mount Moriah Church and Cemetery are located, being the center of a prosperous farming neighborhood. The place was first established by David M. Johnson, a prominent and substantial local landowner who was a magistrate of the county for many years.

Evans. The writer has no knowledge of any place of this designation in the county. There are a great number of persons by the name resident in the county, all of whom are more or less related by blood or marriage.

✓ Fulgham. A small village about 6 miles east of Clinton, in Hickman County, at the crossing of the Fulton and Metropolis and the Clinton and Mayfield public roads. The place was formerly a post office and J. W. Walker maintained it for many years. At the present time there is near the store, now operated by P. J. Vaughan, a county high school.

Grafton. A spur on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad in Hickman County, named for an extensive operator in the timber business who procured the location of the spur for shipment of timber. The timber in that section having formerly been of great importance, the original growth of white oak, poplar, black walnut, gum, sycamore, elm and other varieties of hardwood having probably been unexcelled in the Mississippi Valley.

✓ Hailewell. Formerly a general store where a post office was kept and which was established by and through the influence of B. L. Haile, a pioneer resident of the locality between the Obion Creek and the Mississippi River on a public road leading westward from Oaktown on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad to the Mississippi River. This place was established by Mr. Haile in the early nineties, but after his death the business declined rapidly and has now been discontinued for several years, the post office having been annulled in the years during which the establishment of star routes and rural mail routes came into vogue. The section where Hailewell was embraced a locality where the curious malady known as "milk sickness" prevailed. Much interesting local history could be written relative to the hardships encountered by the pioneer residents of the section. The chief landowner having been a Greek named John Muscovalley, some of whose descendants still reside in the locality. B. L. Haile was the first white man establishing a farm in the locality. Muscovalley having procured settlement of much of his land by negroes, who were considered to be immune from the milk sickness.

Kemps. Formerly a spur also on the Mobile and Ohio Railroad, named for and established for W. W. Kemp, of the firm of Walker & Kemp, who operated a saw mill somewhat extensively and shipped their product from that point. This spur has been discontinued a good many years.

Obion Creek. A stream of considerable magnitude, which heads in the western part of Graves and flows in a circuitous course through Hickman and a small part of its course in the southern edge of Carlisle

County, emptying into the Mississippi River about 6 miles above the town of Hickman (formerly Mills Point). About 4 miles above the mouth of Obion Creek are situated a number of ~~Indian~~ mounds built by prehistoric people, adjacent to which was a burying ground of those people from which a great many relics of pottery and other utensils have been found. One of the most remarkable remains of these people is a canal extending from the Obion Creek at a point a short distance below the mounds to Bayou de Chien Creek a few miles above its mouth, near which point other mounds are situated. Early settlers of the county stated that this canal was well defined in the earlier days of the county and is now for part of its length of sufficient depth that water to a considerable extent stands there all the time, even in the driest seasons. The head of the canal, where it leaves Obion Creek, is so constructed that the current from the stream and drift of rubbish down the current passed it without entering into the channel of the ditch; considered to have been a good piece of engineering work.

✓ Spring Hill. A village in the north central part of Hickman County, established and named by Douglas Zimmerman, who was the first Superintendent of Schools of Hickman County and who maintained a general store and his residence at the place many years. A fine spring formerly flowed out of the elevation on the apex of which the village was established. There is now two small general stores, various residences and two churches at the place, the locality having always maintained a high standard for morals, religion and good citizenship generally.

✓ Stubbs. A siding at the crossing of the Mobile and Ohio Railroad by the Clinton and Hickman public road in the south central part of Hickman County and in one of the finest farming sections of the county. This siding was established by the Railroad Company in the nineties for the convenient loading of corn, wheat and live stock produced in the locality. Greenwood Church, destroyed by fire in the year 1923, stood adjacent to this siding and a small general store, there also burned in 1923, was maintained at the place for a number of years.

✓ Thurman. A siding on the main line of the Illinois Central Railroad about 3 miles north of *Fulton* *Co.* and only a siding where idle rolling stock was sometimes stored by the Railroad Company, and prior to the establishment of the freight yards at the town of Fulton great use was made of the Thurman siding is in Fulton County.

L. Johnson
Postmaster

COLUMBUS-BELMONT MEMORIAL STATE PARK

COLUMBUS-BELMONT MEMORIAL STATE PARK, situated on the bank of the Mississippi River on the old townsite of Columbus, Kentucky, is reached by State Highways 123 and 98.

When, in 1927, the high water of that year forced the citizens of Columbus to abandon their homes, the American Red Cross built, on the benchland to the eastward, a new town. The old town was abandoned, and all persons securing home sites in the new conveyed their former lands back to the city, which, in turn deeded these lands, together with the streets and alleys, over to the Commonwealth of Kentucky. Other lands were acquired by purchase and a total of 331 acres was made available as a site for the present State Park, built, since July, 1934, by CCC labor, to commemorate the historic struggle that took place here during the War Between the States, between Union and Confederate forces.

The history of the Park runs back to the days when, according to local legend, General George Rogers Clark established a block house as an outpost against the Indians in the year 1780. Authentic record of the military post begins not later than 1804, and from that time on it assumed an importance in keeping with the great forces that were moving for control, not only of the Mississippi River, but of the entire Mid-Continental region. U. S. troops were rushed to this point at the time of the Burr conspiracy. A settlement grew up and the first court house and jail in the "Purchase" were built here in 1823. In 1829 the log court house was burned and the seat of local government removed to its present location at Columbus.

Back in 1784 Virginia, in order to pay off the soldiers of the Revolution, provided for the issuance of warrants, good for lands lying along the Mississippi

River, and a group of General George Rogers Clark's veterans used the opportunity to acquire lands where Columbus is now located.

Nineteen years later, in 1803, the purchase of Louisiana from France made this spot the approximate geographical center of the nation, and the burning of the Capitol at Washington in 1814 set on foot a movement to remove the seat of government to this spot - a place sufficiently far removed from the seacoast to render it immune, in future, from any imagined hostile attack.

With the opening of the War Between the States Columbus again sprang into the national picture. The Northern program for conquest of the South involved, as its major western feature, the opening of the Mississippi. To checkmate that strategy the Confederacy seized and heavily fortified the river at this point.

The bluff known as "Iron Banks" was seized, and fortified with a thoroughness never before seen on the American continent. A great chain over a mile long, its links weighing 16 pounds each, attached on the Kentucky shore to a six ton deep sea anchor, bedded deep in the side of the bluff, was laid across the river to prevent further passage southward of the Union gunboats. One hundred and forty heavy guns, so placed as to sweep the river, were ranged at four elevations - 40, 85, 97 feet above the water, and crowning the 200 foot top of the bluff. This formidable artillery was protected by massive earthworks against the gun-fire of the fleet, and against attack by land by an intricate system of trenches, parapets, redoubts and abattis. The Missouri bank of the river was held by a small Confederate force. The whole constituted a major defense against the pending Union movement looking to the opening of the Mississippi.

In November, 1861, General U. S. Grant moved south from Cairo and landed his army on the Missouri side of the river. He overwhelmed the Confederate forces, burned the Confederate camp at Belmont, and started back to

his transports. General Polk, C. S. A., struck at the retreating Union force, and a Union disaster was narrowly averted. Realizing the impracticability of the fortress he swung eastward, captured the Confederate position at Port Henry, forced the surrender of General Buckner at Fort Donaldson, fought the bitter battle of Pittsburg Landing, or Shiloh, and by this surrounding movement forced the evacuation of Columbus. Some of the guns were spilled and thrown into the river; others were taken to the next Confederate defensive position at Island Number 10. The battle of Belmont was the beginning of the great western struggle that continued without interruption until Vicksburg had fallen and the armies of the north swept eastward to the sea. Today the Park allows the tourist to visit the trenches that approach, in their completeness of detail, those built during the World War. The remains of a system of waterworks may still be seen. The great sea-anchor is among the "show places" of the Park. Links of the huge chain are still with it. A museum houses many of the smaller relics gathered from the trenches. Auto drives and outlooks permit the visitor to view from every angle the great panorama of winding river and fortified hill. Ample parking space provides security for the car while its occupants are visiting the great trenches, the museum, and other things of interest. Plentiful grounds and shelter houses provide for the comfort of the guest within the Park.

HICKMAN COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES

- Concord 1/31/1829, Sam'l L. Beater (2); changed to *
- ✓ 1. JACKSON- 6/5/1829, Rueben Owen; Disc. 12/ /1832-?;
- 10/26/1820, Henry L. Edmington 10/28/23, Wm. Cook; 1825, Henry L. Edmington;
- ✓ 2. COLUMBUS (C.H.)- 11/21/1831, Baker Woodruff (2); 7/2/1836,
Wm. Cook.... ^

- APO.

- 1/13/1829, Howard Cassity
- ✓ 3. MOSCOW- 12/15/1831, J.V. Jennison; 1/21/1833, Alvah Nichol....

Disc 2/15/1955

- 12/18/29, Allen Caldwell; 5/17/1830, Robt. M. Lewis(...)
- ✓ 4. CLINTON- 1/2/1833, Wm. B. Jenkins; 5/30/1835, Randolph Adams;
.... 8/12/1845, James T. Sublett; Disc. 10/7/1846; Re-est.
10/26/1846, Benjamin M. Hatch; 10/24/1854, Wm. W. Lillard....

- APO

- ✓ 5. WEST FORK- 4/16/1832, Richard D. Gholson; Disc. 7/2/1836;

- ✓ 6. WESLEY- 3/15/1843, Otho Hardin; Disc. 1/4/1865; Re-est.
8/22/1866, Finley Huss.... 3/20/1877, James A. Dodson;
Disc. 7/20/1881;

- ✓ 7. OBION- 6/25/1850, A. Weatherford; 7/24/1850, Thomas J.
Owen; Disc. 2/2/1853;

- ✓ 8. BALTIMORE- 11/28/1853, Alexander Tucker; 3/1/1854, Thomas
A. Slayden; 11/4/1856, Thomas T. Scofield; 11/24/1857,
Alfred Edwards; Disc. 10/6/1859; Re-est. 10/11/1859,
Monroe Holloway; 11/15/1859, Solomon R. Jenkins; Disc.
9/4/1861; Re-est. 8/28/1888, John R. Michael; 7/22/1891,
Wm. A. Jewell; (to Graves Co. 1/16/1893); Back to Hickman
Co. on or before 12/3/1895, Wm. A. Jewell; 11/18/1899,
H.D. Morgan; Disc. 12/8/1899, effective 12/30/1899 (papers
to Neal);

9. NEW TEXAS- 9/22/1858, Isaac C. Whayne; Disc. 7/3/1863;

✓
HICKMAN COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (2)

- ✓ 10. SPRING HILL- 4/26/1866, John T. Porter; Disc. 5/21/1867;
Re-est. 3/27/1872, S.L. Humphrey; 8/13/1873, T.L.
Atwood; 2/3/1874 Disc.; Re-est. 11/26/1877, S.F.
Chayce (sic); 12/12/1877, L.B. Cayce; name changed to
Orion, 2/13/1878, Robert D. Phillips; Disc. 1/3/1879;
- ✓ 11. ROSSVILLE- 2/18/1868, Reuben Ross; Disc. 8/19/1870;
- ✓ 12. OAKVILLE- 8/11/1869, Jose Augustin Prieto; 1/30/1871,
T.M. Gore (?); Disc. 4/11/1871;
- ✓ 13. TICHIAVILLE (?)- 2/2/1874, Caleb A. Green; Disc. 1/4/1876;
- ✓ 14. SOUTH OAK- 11/23/1874, John B. Cave; 12/9/1878, Fletcher
F. McFadden; 8/18/1879, John N. Wille; 9/29/1879,
Isaiah Scott; name changed to Oakton, 10/23/1882, Isaiah
Scott; 3/27/1883, James S. Russell....
? APO
- ✓ 15. ELLA- 4/20/1875, John E. Jackson; Disc. 1/20/1881;
- ✓ 16. CYPRESS- 7/8/1881, Caleb A. Green; 8/9/1893, Nelson R.
Crain, order rescinded 1/25/1894; 1/24/1896, Albert N.
Rambo.... 3/7/1903, James Walter Grimes; Disc. 4/21/1905,
effective 5/15/1905 (mail to Clinton);
- ✓ 17. PUCKETT- 8/23/1881, John A. Bugg; Disc. 11/1/1881;
- ✓ 18. TREVOR- 8/23/1881, J.P. Woodward; 6/27/1882, Thomas P.
Berry; Disc. 1/18/1883; Re-est. 7/10/1886, Berry B. Lee;
2/3/1887, Henry J. Lamkin; name changed to Spring Hill,
8/10/1887, Henry J. Lamkin; 7/9/1888, Edward D. Evans....
10/21/1904, Thomas B. Ezell; Disc. 7/20/1905, effective
8/15/1905 (mail to Clinton);
- ✓ 19. BEELERTON- 7/31/1886, John J. Kennedy; 8/26/1887, Robert
W. Nance.... 10/11/1901, Wm. S. Hamlett; Disc. 12/13/1904,
effective 12/31/1904 (mail to Crutchfield, Fulton Co.)

✓
HICKMAN COUNTY, KY. POST OFFICES (3)

- ✓ 20. BUGG- 7/31/1886, John A. Bugg; 4/27/1903, Boyd Puckett;
Disc. 12/9/1904, effective 12/31/1904 (mail to Clinton);
- ✓ 21. BULAH- 6/14/1888, John D. Wilson; 11/19/1888, Henry T.
Burgess; 12/16/1897, Albert N. Rambo.... 3/16/1908,
Richard T. Courtney; Disc. 12/31/1915 (mail to Milburn);
- ✓ 22. SOUTH COLUMBUS- 2/15/1889, John B. Dickson; Disc. 1/25/
1893 (papers to Columbus);
- ✓ 23. NEAL- 4/16/1894, Luke W. Bostick; 12/6/1894, ~~Daniel David~~
Hopkins, order of appointment rescinded, 6/11/1895;
7/6/1897, Lucy W. Mullins; 3/18/1904, Daniel B. Horn;
Disc. 11/4/1904, effective 11/15/1904 (mail to Wingo,
Graves Co., Ky.);
- ✓ 24. CROLEY- 8/20/1898, Robert E. Nall; Disc. 4/21/1905,
effective 5/15/1905 (mail to Clinton);
- ✓ 25. HAILEWELL (sic)- 12/12/1898, Benjamin L. Haile; 1/15/1902,
John F. Haile; 10/17/1906, Virgil O. Clark; Disc. 4/15/
1915 (mail to Columbus); *moskova lley*
- ✓ 26. FULGHAM- 3/26/1900, Robert S. Bazzell; 4/21/1902, Daniel
B. Horn; 4/27/1903, John H. Humphreys; Disc. 11/4/1904,
effective 11/15/1904 (mail to Clinton);
- ✓ 27. PELO- 8/6/1920, Richard T. Courtney; Disc. effective 10/31/
1924 (mail to Fancy Farm);
- ✓ 28. STUBBS- 10/27/1900, Frank P. Wrather; 11/17/1904, Vester H.
Campbell; Disc. 4/14/1905, effective 5/15/1905 (mail to
Moscow);